

# BASEBALL MAGNETS TO WHIST THE SCREWS. New National Agreement Adopted That Grips Minor Leagues Tighter.

"Small Fry" Clubs to Be Classed  
at the Will of the "Big"  
Presidents.

Classification Made by Aggregating  
Populations of the Cities  
Represented.

"JOHN" WARD, WINS HIS CASE.

Board Decides That J. "Montgum" Never  
Signed a Contract with New York for  
1895, and Therefore Is Not "Re-  
served" for Next Season.

After a lengthy session in parlor F of the Fifth Avenue Hotel, yesterday afternoon, the delegates of the National League of Baseball Clubs, who were present to attend the annual Spring meeting, adopted a new national agreement which will give them a tighter grip on the minor leagues and virtually give them full control of baseball affairs throughout the United States. By the adoption of the new agreement the small fry, as the minor leagues are termed, have no choice in the selection of the class under which they desire to be represented.

The principal alterations in the agreement were the change of the name of the National Board to the National Board of Arbitration, and increasing the number from four to five members. At the last meeting Mr. Freedman made a similar motion, but it was voted down. Yesterday when the motion was again made, it was unanimously agreed upon.

The leagues under the new agreement will be divided into six classes, as follows: A, B, C, D, E and F, and the protection price will range as follows: \$75 for class A, \$50 for class B, \$40 for class C, \$30 for class D, \$20 for class E, and \$10 for class F. This also includes the right of reservation for each club.

The leagues will be classed according to the aggregate population of the cities represented in the respective leagues. The time limit for a club to sign a player in one league from a club in another league will be from October 1 to January 1. At the expiration of this time, the club drafts such players as it may wish to release him or pay over the drafting price to the club from which he was taken.

CLASSES AND PROTECTION PRICES.  
The drafting price of a class A player is \$500, class B \$300, class C \$200, class D \$100, class E \$75, and class F \$50.

Another clause was inserted in the new agreement to the effect that at no time during a season shall a member club approach a ball player for the purpose of negotiating for his release without the consent of the club to which he is connected with the penalty for each offense being a fine.

All minor league clubs will in the future be compelled to apply each year for protection under the national agreement. A national league can apply for protection at any time during a season.

RIVALRY GUARDED AGAINST.  
Article 23, section 1, of the old agreement, which prohibits organizing a rival league, was modified to read as follows:

That any club member of any minor league who desires to become a member or co-operate with any organization, or to negotiate with any player, shall first obtain the consent of the association to which he is connected, and all rights or claims of the club shall be revoked unless the unanimous consent of the Board or upon approval by three-fourths vote of the major league.

This amendment was a big victory for the "Big Three"—Frederick, Soden and Hart—who have protested strenuously against the old clause.

During the session some of the magistrates received a bad scare, when one of their number arose and proposed that the present percentage system be shared by the magistrates of the minor leagues, the old guarantee system be adopted. After a heated discussion this motion was voted down.

Another motion which caused the Western magistrates to draw their knives was the proposal to increase the protection price for New York, Chicago, Boston and Philadelphia clubs favored this scheme, but it was voted down in a hurry.

Frank Robinson, of the Cleveland Club, wanted an amendment made to one of the clauses so that the league could not take a player from a club during his first year with that club without paying double price for him. This was also shelved in a hurry.

The case of John Powers, who was claimed by both Montgomery, Ala., and Dallas, Tex., was left to President Nick Young for settlement, because of the clause before the National Board.

"JOHN" WARD A FREE MAN.  
It was shortly after 10 o'clock when the National Board, consisting of Messrs. Byrne, Brush, Soden and Young, went into session.

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After several hours of discussion the Board unanimously resolved that Ward was illegally reserved for the season of 1895, by reason of the fact that he was not under contract with the New York Club during the season of 1895, and did not refuse to sign a contract. Ward was released from the National Board.

While the Board was in session the other magistrates were busy in the corridors sharpening their knives against the flagrant. There were several wicked glances cast at the New York magistrates, and it was evident that the Western contingents meant to do something at the first opportunity. Long before the League meeting was called the corridors were filled with faces of familiar managers and ball players, the minor leagues being in the majority.

MINOR LEAGUES AMALGAMATED.  
President Pat Powers, of the Eastern League, was busy gathering his men about him. He had issued a call to the presidents of all the minor leagues to be present at this meeting, the object being to form an amalgamation of the minor leagues for protection against the major body. The small leagues intend to make a bitter protest against the proposed juggling of players by the National League.

The leagues which form the new association are as follows:  
Inter-State League—Fort Wayne, Ind.; Toledo, O.; Youngstown, O.; New Castle, Pa.; Washington, D. C.; Wheeling, W. Va., and possibly Akron and Findlay, O.  
B. B. Powers, president, Leader, Pittsburgh.  
Western League—Kansas City, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Milwaukee, Grand Rapids, Detroit, Indianapolis and Columbus. Ben Johnson, president, Commercial Capital, Cincinnati.  
Western Association—St. Joseph, Mo.; Des Moines, Ia.; Burlington, Ia.; Cedar Rapids, Ia.; Rockford, Ill.; Peoria, Ill.; Quincy, Ill.; Dubuque, Ia.; T. J. Hoke, president, St. Joseph, Mo.  
New England League—Bangor, Me.; Lewiston, Me.; Augusta, Me.; Portland, Me.; Brunswick, Me.; New Bedford, Mass.; Fall River, Mass.; Pawtucket, R. I.; M. Burnham, Globe.  
Eastern League—Toronto, Canada; Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Providence, Springfield, Mass.; Scituate and Wilkes-Barre, Pa. E. T. Powers, president, 106 West 10th Street, Philadelphia.  
Pennsylvania State League—Allentown, Bethlehem, Hazleton, Reading, Lancaster, York, Carlisle, Pottsville, Scranton, Lehigh Valley, Scranton, Philadelphia.  
Atlantic League—Wilmington, Newark, Jersey City, Paterson, New Haven, Hartford, Samuel Crane, president, Advertising, New York.

City, Paterson, New Haven, Hartford, Samuel Crane, president, Advertising, New York. T. J. Hoke was elected temporary chairman and Frank Hough secretary. It is probable that the association will ask for a hearing at this meeting.

At the night session of the National Board several minor league cases were taken up, but President Young refused to give out anything for publication. The case of Whitehill, of the Detroit Club, was settled in favor of Syracuse.

AGAINST DOUBLE EMPIRE SYSTEM.  
At today's session the schedule will be presented, and it is believed that it will be unanimously adopted. The Rule Committee will also make its report and the umpire question will be taken up.

President Freedman, of the New York Club, is in favor of having two umpires officiate in a game.

President Robinson, of the Cleveland Club, then a member of the National Board, said: "I don't want to have two umpires in a game. It is hard enough to get six or seven men to umpire in the games, without picking up a lot of men who are fit to be put in the museum. I have already openly declared against it."

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# In the Wake of Corbett.

CORBETT ACCEPTS TERMS.  
Declares He Is Ready to Fight  
Before the Bolingbroke  
Club of London.

Fitzsimmons Declines to Answer an  
Inquiry Regarding His  
Willingness.

A PURSE OF \$8,000 OFFERED.

The Californian Says He Will Sign Articles  
of Agreement as Soon as Received  
and Will Cancel Theatrical En-  
gagements if Necessary.

The Bolingbroke Club, of London, called an offer yesterday of \$8,000 for a fight between Corbett and Fitzsimmons, allowing each man \$500 expenses.

In addition to this the National Sporting Club announced that if Corbett would apologize for his worthy attack upon its etiquette, a purse would be offered for the battle by that club also.

New Orleans, Feb. 24.—A message sent by the Journal to Bob Fitzsimmons inquiring if he would accept the terms offered by the Bolingbroke Club, of London, was delivered to the pugilist tonight.

Fitzsimmons read the telegram carefully, remarking, curtly, "No answer."

Cleveland, Ohio, Feb. 24.—"Bob Fitzsimmons does not want to meet me before the Bolingbroke Club," said Mr. Potter, chief counsel of the Bolingbroke Club, as he read the dispatch from London concerning the statement of Secretary Stevens, of the Bolingbroke Club. "He will not fight as long as he can, and then he will fight."

"I am not only willing but anxious to meet Fitzsimmons," said Mr. Potter, "and I do not consider the idle boasts of that man. He is a worthy of notice. He has been defeated by me, and he knows it. He is a man who will not fight as long as he can, and then he will fight."

"But, mark my word, that man does not dare to meet me, and eventually he will get some excuse to avoid the offer of the Bolingbroke Club. I will deposit as much money as the club wants me to put up, and shall anxiously await some word from the officers of that organization. I will close up my show at any time to fight this man."

When asked if he would apologize to the National Sporting Club for the utterance which offended that organization, Mr. Corbett said he did not think he had any occasion to apologize, but if Fitzsimmons would agree to meet him under the auspices of the club he would willingly explain his remarks which gave offense to that body.

He would do anything in reason to get a match with Fitzsimmons. In conclusion Corbett said:

"I want to show the American public that there is a young American here, of the same caliber as the old ones, who is ready to defend the championship and keep it in America. I don't care to fight for a living, but I care to stay in it until I prove to the world that I can win any man who walks."

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Petitions and Arguments to Be  
Hurled at the Assembly Rail-  
roads Committee.

Chief Consul Potter, Who Will Talk  
for the Bicycle Baggage  
Bill, Is Confident.

LITTLE DOUBT OF THE FULL VOTE.

Many Thousands of Indorsements from  
Voting Masses in the State to Be  
Presented at the Public Hear-  
ing in Albany To-day.

Before the Railroads Committee of the Assembly at Albany this afternoon the wheelmen, with I. B. Potter, chief consul of the New York State Division, League of American Wheelmen, as principal spokesman, will endeavor to show how bicycle baggage will properly come under the head of baggage when accompanied by owners.

In their efforts to compel the legislators to amend the law, the League of American Wheelmen officials in the State have received the most unanimous support on all sides, and the numerous petition blanks, containing thousands of names that have found their way to the office of the division in the Vanderbilt Building, are ample proof of the general determination to bring the railroads to terms.

"I think that we will fight against an injustice," said Mr. Potter, "and if we fail it will be for reasons that are beyond our control. If the committee reports the measure favorably there is little doubt that the Assembly will pass it. In saying this I am guided by the many letters that we have received from representatives all over the State, picking their support and endorsing the bill."

But, mark my word, that man does not dare to meet me, and eventually he will get some excuse to avoid the offer of the Bolingbroke Club. I will deposit as much money as the club wants me to put up, and shall anxiously await some word from the officers of that organization. I will close up my show at any time to fight this man."

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A Bill to Permit Horse Racing  
in the District of  
Columbia.

Any Corporation May Contribute  
Purses or Stakes Under Cer-  
tain Conditions.

IVY CITY TRACK MAY BE REOPENED.

It Will Be of Immense Service to the  
Washington Jockey Club, Who May  
Use their Grounds at Ben-  
nings Indefinitely.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The Senate Committee on the District of Columbia to-day reported favorably the bill introduced some time ago by Senator McMillan regulating and permitting the organization of corporations for horse racing purposes in the District of Columbia.

The bill permits one or more meetings each year, and authorizes trotting, running and steeplechase meetings. It also permits the corporation, the owners of horses or others who are not participating in the races, to offer or contribute toward purses or stakes, but no person other than the owners of horses contesting in the race is to have any primary interest in the stakes.

The time for meetings is restricted to the period from April 1 to November 30, and no meeting is to be held except between sunrise and sunset.

If this bill becomes law it will bring a local racing, for it will permit the offering of purses by the bookmakers on the existing laws of the District of Columbia, and no racing which is prohibited, and any racing which is carried on must be sustained by the ordinary revenues, such as the receipts from the sale of privileges, and the daily rental from the telegraph companies who distribute the results of the poolrooms throughout the country.

With the law now pending, it will be an easy matter to have a purse or two contributed each day, and its passage will probably bring an early reopening of the Ivy City track.

It will also assure a financial success for the Washington Jockey Club's meeting at Benning.

Another of its features is the fact that it does not place any limit on the number of days each track may be used. This second feature will enable the property for several meetings. The interest in cross-country racing in the District is considerable and races of this character at any time